

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Division of Disease Prevention (DDP) Monthly E-bulletin

November Edition 2016



Your Opinion Matters!

The DDP E-bulletin keeps health departments, clinical staff, and community stakeholders apprised of significant information, events, personnel changes, policies, and opportunities related to DDP and its programs. Please take a few moments to complete a [short survey](#) to assist DDP in making the E-bulletin a better communication tool.

Health Commissioner Update: Regulations for Disease Reporting

In late October, Dr. Levine released updates to the Disease Reporting Regulations. Information about the changes is available on the VDH [Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) web page. You can access additional information about disease reporting requirements in the documents listed and linked below:

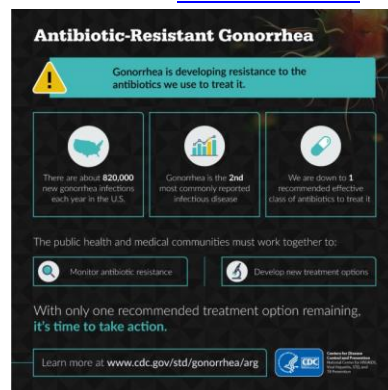
- [Updates to the Regulations for Disease Reporting](#)
- [Reportable Disease List- includes information about conditions that must be reported immediately and those that must be reported within 3 days](#)
- [Conditions Reportable by Directors of Laboratories in Virginia](#)

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment:

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) team in HIV Care Services will assist clients in enrolling into ADAP-approved Health Insurance Marketplace plans during the open enrollment period (November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017). This program has allowed previously uninsured individuals to access insurance through ADAP at no cost. For more information regarding covered plans, check the [VDH ADAP webpage](#).

New Warning Signs that Gonorrhea Treatment May be Losing Effectiveness

For the first time in the United States, health officials have [identified a cluster](#) of gonorrhea infections that shows both decreased susceptibility to ceftriaxone and very high-level resistance to azithromycin. Ceftriaxone and azithromycin is the dual regimen that is the last effective treatment option currently available for gonorrhea. In the first nine months of 2016, 8,170 cases of gonorrhea were reported in Virginia. This reflects a 29.7% increase compared to the first nine months of 2015. This change, accompanied by the increases we're seeing across the nation, highlights the importance of



VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contract monitor) are in your address book so that their e-mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

ADAP Enrollment Numbers (as of October 18, 2016)

- Total Clients Enrolled: 5,913
- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,684
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 543
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 495
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,289

Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers (as of October 18, 2016)

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 67
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 47
- Clients Currently on Treatment: 20

ADAP Listserv

Please e-mail [Carrie Rhodes](#) if you would like to be added to the ADAP listserv.

staying alert through timely reporting, staying vigilant for cases that don't seem to respond to treatment, and treating patients with dual therapy. [Learn more](#) by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) page on antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surge to 20 Year High

New data released from the CDC show national rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis increased significantly for the third year in a row, reaching a 20-year high. Here are highlights from the released data:

- Rates for primary and secondary syphilis, which are the most infectious stages of syphilis, increased by a staggering 19% in 2015, on top of a 15% increase in 2014.
- Rates of congenital syphilis rose 6%, and there are increasing reports of neurosyphilis and ocular syphilis, a serious infection of the nervous system that can lead to permanent blindness.
- Gonorrhea increased overall from 2014 to 2015 by 12.8%, driven by an 18.3% increase among men and a 6.8% increase among women.
- Chlamydia rates increased overall in 2015 by 5.9%, driven by a 10.5% increase among men. Rates of chlamydia also increased in women by 3.8%.
- In recent years, more than half of state and local STD programs experienced large budget cuts, resulting in more than 20 health department STD clinics closing in one year alone (2012).
- Preventing STDs can save the U.S. health care system billions of dollars.

View the full CDC 2015 STD Surveillance Report [here](#).

Submit Your World AIDS Day Events to DDP

World AIDS Day (WAD) is on Thursday, December 1, 2016. For agencies and partners hosting WAD events, please fill out an event submission form and return it to [Chris Barnett](#), Social Media Coordinator. Submitted events will be included on the Disease Prevention Hotline [events calendar](#) and [Facebook Page](#).

As part of its efforts to assist in WAD, DDP will be placing Facebook advertisements encouraging individuals living in Virginia to visit the calendar and find an event near them to commemorate the awareness day. Submit your event submission form by November 25, 2016 to ensure inclusion on the event calendar while ads are running.

Agencies or partners may request educational materials for their events by contacting the Disease Prevention Hotline at (800) 533-4148. For promotional materials, such as flyers or palm cards, contact [Chris Barnett](#).

Integrated HIV Care and Prevention Services Planning

Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the [HIV Prevention web page](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the bottom of the sheet. "Like" our DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

Personnel Announcements

Welcome



DDP welcomes **Mark Baker**, who began his role as the Data to Care Linkage Coordinator on September 1, 2016. Mark will be responsible for facilitating linkage and re-engagement into HIV medical care and needed support services for out-of-care clients through the Data to Care project, and collaborating with health departments, medical facilities, and community-based organizations to conduct Data to Care activities. Prior to his role at VDH, he served as the Senior Health Systems Navigator at Virginia Commonwealth University, where he provided care coordination and outreach to newly diagnosed or out-of-care clients to link and engage clients into comprehensive



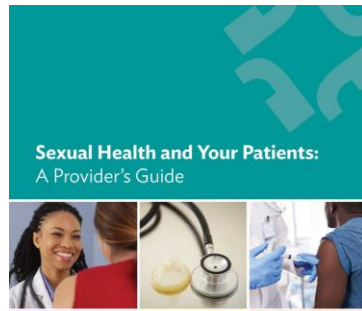
The [Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan](#), including the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need, for Calendar Year (CY) 2017 through 2021, was submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration and CDC on September 30, 2016. The Integrated Plan was discussed at the August and October 2016 Community HIV Planning Group meetings, and will be presented at the Joint Prevention and Care Quarterly Sub-recipient Meeting on December 7, 2016. The next phase for both VDH and stakeholders is the implementation process. For more information about the Integrated HIV Prevention and Care Plan and the Statewide Coordinated Statement of Need CY 2017 – 2021, contact [Renate Nnoko](#), HIV Care Services Planner at (804) 864-7950, or [Bruce Taylor](#), HIV Prevention Planner at (804) 864-8015.

Newly Released: Sexual Health and Your Patients: A Provider's Guide

The *Sexual Health and Your Patients: A Provider's Guide*, developed by the Health Care Action Group, is intended to help primary care providers better integrate sexual health conversations and recommended preventive sexual health services into routine patient visits. The guide contains essential sexual health questions to ask, sample responses to common patient questions, a summary chart of recommended preventive sexual health services, information about recommended screening tests, and clinical education and resources. The PDF of the guide is located at www.ncshguide.org/providers.

Activities Underway for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Program

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) program started data collection activities in Newport News and Norfolk on September 26, 2016. NHBS is a



surveillance system that monitors the behaviors of persons at high risk of HIV infection and assesses HIV prevention efforts. NHBS activities are conducted in three alternating cycles, each lasting a year: men who have sex with men, injection drug users, and high-risk heterosexuals (NHBS-HET). NHBS-HET activities are currently being conducted in collaboration with the Eastern Virginia Medical School and Norfolk State University; data collected will be used to determine whether HIV prevention efforts are reaching at-risk populations within the community. For additional information, contact [Celestine Buyu](#) at (804) 864-8043.



Trojan Magnums Now Available!

Trojan Magnums, the most frequently requested brand and style of condoms, and are now available through the VDH Condom Distribution Program. Through the end of 2016, community partners and health departments may order up to three cases of 1,000 condoms in addition to the annual allowance of 100 cases (100,000 condoms).

Both health districts and community partners are eligible for the VDH Condom Distribution Program. Organizations may now order up to 25,000 condoms each

systems of HIV care. Mark can be reached at (804) 864-7390 or mark.baker@vdh.virginia.gov.

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Amanda Saia**, as she began her new role as the HIV Surveillance Epidemiologist in the HIV Surveillance Unit on September 25, 2016. She will be responsible for conducting HIV epidemiologic activities and evaluating HIV surveillance data for program planning and implementation. Amanda will also serve as the point of contact for HIV data for the Community HIV Planning Group and Data to Care activities. Amanda has been with HIV Surveillance as the Data to Care Project Analyst since August 2015, and brings to her new role a wealth of knowledge on data analysis and program coordination. Amanda can be reached at amanda.saia@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7862.

Transitions



Congratulations to **Rachel Culp**, who recently transitioned within STD Surveillance, Operations, & Data

quarter (100,000 a year) and those with multiple sites may be approved to order more. Smaller quantities of female condoms and non-latex condoms are also available. Questions regarding the VDH Condom Distribution Program contact [Beth Marschak](#) at (804) 864-8008.

Community-Based Awards Made for Project PrIDE and Bridges 757 Project

HIV Prevention Services (HPS) has awarded contracts through a competitive request for proposals to four community-based organizations (CBO) to support uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for individuals at risk for HIV (Project PrIDE) and to participate in the collaborative to support an array of services for men who have sex with men of color at risk for or living with HIV (Bridges 757). The recipient organizations are: ACCESS AIDS Care, A Hope for Tomorrow, International Black Women's Congress and Minority AIDS Support Services. These agencies join the Norfolk, Portsmouth, Three Rivers and Virginia Beach Health Districts, the Eastern Regional AIDS Resource and Consultation Center and Norfolk State University in the delivery of services under these two grants. HPS is negotiating with additional districts and other health care providers to expand services throughout the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News metropolitan statistical area. For more information about the CBO awards, contact [Chrissy Schlegel](#) at (804) 864-8208.

Community Spotlight

The Community Advancement Project Update

The Community Advancement Project (CAP) recently held an advisory board meeting in the Eastern health region to assess regional needs for gay and bisexual men of color. The next CAP meeting will be held for the Central region on November 30, 2016 at Diversity Richmond, 1407 Sherwood Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. Health needs, including mental health, awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis, substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of gay and bisexual men of color in the media, testing, stigma, access to treatment, etc., will be discussed. If you would like to participate or receive more information, contact [Joshua Thomas](#) at (804) 864-7552.

Administration (SODA) to the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator. Rachel has assumed coordination of the new CDC-funded grant initiative that aims to increase the number of persons living with HBV and HCV infection who are tested and made aware of their infection status to facilitate linkage to care and treatment. Since July 2015, Rachel was a Program Analyst and Technical Writer for Maven, the recently launched new STD surveillance database. She previously spent time in India working on a community-based study to establish the effectiveness of the BCG vaccine among household contacts of TB cases. Rachel has a MPH with a concentration in Infectious Disease from Virginia Tech. She is experienced in the programming languages R and SAS. Rachel can be contacted at rachel.culp@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7992.



Many thanks to **Jamie Serrecchia**, former Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator since 2014, for leading and expanding the hepatitis C testing program across the state! Jamie is now working as a Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) in SODA and will be providing much needed DIS assistance within local jurisdictions. Her [email address](#) remains unchanged, but her phone number is now (804) 864-7989.

Farewell

Karen Asante, Hotline Counselor, resigned from her position effective October 25, 2016 to complete a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy. We wish her success as she completes her course work and pursues her career goals.